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Testimony by Representative Tom Reynolds
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 29, 2012

House Bill 5553, An Act Concerning Substance Abuse Programs

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I am pleased to testify in support of HB 5553, An Act Concerning Substance Abuse Programs, and specifically the provision related to ignition interlock devices (IID).

An IID is an electronic breathalyzer connected to the ignition of a vehicle that measures breath alcohol concentration and prevents a driver from starting the vehicle if the driver's blood alcohol content (BAC) exceeds a specified limit. A retest is required within randomly variable intervals while a driver is driving a vehicle to ensure that the driver's BAC remains below the maximum allowable level.

I want to begin by thanking all those who helped us last session secure passage of the most significant drunk driving legislation (P.A. 11-51) in a decade: Governor Dannel Malloy, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, the co-chairs of this committee, Commissioner Melody Currey, OPM Undersecretary Michael Lawlor, Court Support Services Director William Carbone, MADD, and many legislators.

As a result of this legislation that originated in this committee, **Connecticut now requires the mandatory use of IID's for ALL repeat DUI offenders.** The IID provision in this bill proposes one change to the historic legislation to strengthen the provision related to our most chronic, repeat offenders.

Last year's legislation and this year's bill are an acknowledgement that Connecticut's public policy on DUI has largely failed. Our IID legislation acknowledges two harsh realities: **license suspensions and fines do not change the behaviors of repeat DUI offenders and three out of four offenders with suspended licenses drive anyway.** This is why states are adopting the mandatory use of IID's for repeat offenders as the most effective strategy for changing offenders' behaviors, while allowing offenders to drive to and from work.

Ignition Interlock Device (IID) Current Law & Proposal
Prepared by Rep. Tom Reynolds

Offense/Conviction	Law before 1/1/12	P.A. 11-51, effective 1/1/12	HB 5553, 2012 Session
Second Offense, First Conviction	One year suspension (CGS § 14-227a (g))	<i>Effective 1/1/2012</i> 45-day suspension, followed by one year mandatory Ignition interlock	
Third Offense, Second Conviction	If under 21: suspension of three years or until offender's 21st birthday, whichever is longer, followed by two years mandatory ignition interlock If 21 or older: one-year suspension, followed by two years mandatory ignition interlock (CGS § 14-227a (g))	<i>Effective 1/1/2012</i> If under 21: 45-day suspension or until offender's 21st birthday, whichever is longer, followed by three years mandatory ignition interlock If 21 or older: 45-day suspension, followed by three years mandatory ignition interlock	
Fourth Offense, Third Conviction	License revoked; offender may reapply after six years; if approved, must drive vehicle equipped with ignition interlock for 10 years from date of revocation. (CGS § 14-111 (k) (2))	<i>Effective 1/1/12</i> License revoked; offender may reapply after <u>six</u> years; if approved, must drive vehicle equipped with ignition interlock for <u>10 years</u> from date of reinstatement	<i>Effective 1/1/13</i> License revoked; offender may reapply after <u>two</u> years; if approved, must drive vehicle equipped with ignition interlock device <u>for life</u>

P.A. 11-51: Effective July 1, 2011: DMV and CSSD shall jointly develop and submit to Judiciary and Transportation Committees by 2/1/12 an implementation plan for mandatory IID for all offenders beginning 1/1/2014.